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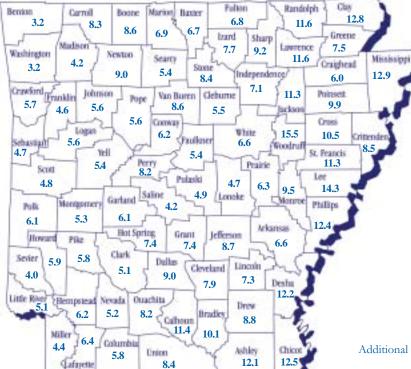
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Arkansas Unemployment Rates by County February 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Mike Huckabee - Governor State of Arkansas

Sandra Winston - Executive Director Arkansas Workforce Investment Board

Labor Market Trends is a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Section of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board. This newsletter is published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.

- Thirty-six of Arkansas' 75 counties recorded lower unemployment rates in February when compared with January. Thirty counties had higher rates, while the rates were unchanged in nine counties.
- The lowest unemployment rate in February was 3.2 percent, posted in both Benton and Washington counties. Sevier County was the only other county with a jobless rate at or below 4.0 percent.
- For the last seven months, Woodruff County has had the state's highest unemployment rate. The county's current rate is 15.5 percent and it is followed by Lee County with 14.3 percent unemployed. Fifteen counties had rates above 10.0 percent in February, compared with 16 in January.

Additional county statistics are available from the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in the monthly publication,

Labor Market Information for Arkansas Counties.

Arkansas Labor Market Trends

February 2004

State's Nonfarm Sector Adds 5,900

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted) was up 5,900 from January to 1,136,700 in February. Seven of the eleven major sectors experienced over-the-month gains. The largest increase occurred in **government**.

Jobs in the **government** sector, at 202,500, advanced 3,700. Most of the increase was at educational facilities, where student workers and nonteaching personnel returned from semester break.

Leisure and hospitality employment rose 2,100 between months, to 85,200. Many of these jobs were the result of seasonal demands, as the racing season opened at Oaklawn Park.

Jobs in **education and health services** increased 700. The gain was attributed to the return of student workers to private educational facilities following semester break.

Professional and business services employment totaled 101,000 in February, a gain of 400. Professional, scientific and technical services contributed three-fourths of the increase.

Additions of 100 jobs, each, were noted in manufacturing, financial activities, and other services.

Trade, transportation, and utilities jobs decreased 1,000 to 237,400 in February. The loss was in retail trade and reflected the continued release of temporary workers hired for the holiday shopping season.

Employment in the **construction** sector dropped 300 in February, to stand at 47,800. This seasonal slowdown was noted in, "heavy construction" (-200), and "specialty trade contractors" (-100).

The number of **natural resources-mining** and **information** jobs remained at 6,600 and 20,000, respectively.

Continued on page 2



Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| Total Nonfarm | North American Industry Classification | February 04 | January 04 | February 03 |
|--|--|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Natural Resources & Mining | Total Nonfarm | 1,136,700 | 1,130,800 | 1,133,100 |
| Mining | | | | 263,500 |
| Construction 47,800 48,100 48,700 Construction of Buildings 10,800 10,800 10,800 Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction 9,600 9,800 10,600 Specialty Trade Contractors 27,400 27,500 27,200 Manufacturing 203,700 203,600 208,200 Wood Products 14,000 11,000 14,000 Primary Metals 7,900 7,900 8,300 Fabricated Metals 17,600 17,600 17,700 Machinery 14,300 14,000 15,000 Computer & Electronic Products 6,000 6,000 5,900 Electrical Equipment 15,700 15,600 15,900 Furniture & Related Products 7,900 7,900 15,900 Furniture & Related Products 7,900 6,800 7,200 Food 52,800 52,700 52,100 Paper & Printing 17,200 15,200 52,100 Paper & Printing 87,200 88,600 7,200 | Natural Resources & Mining | 6,600 | 6,600 | |
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| Nursing & Residential Care Facilities 25,400 25,500 25,100 Social Assistance 22,600 22,600 22,200 Leisure & Hospitality 85,200 83,100 84,300 Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation 8,200 7,500 8,100 Accommodation & Food Services 77,000 75,600 76,200 Accommodation Services 10,100 9,700 9,600 Food Services 66,900 65,900 66,600 Other Services 40,200 40,100 40,100 Automotive Repair 7,200 7,200 7,200 Government 202,500 198,800 200,300 Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | Ambulatory Health Care | | | |
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| Leisure & Hospitality 85,200 83,100 84,300 Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation 8,200 7,500 8,100 Accommodation & Food Services 77,000 75,600 76,200 Accommodation Services 10,100 9,700 9,600 Food Services 66,900 65,900 66,600 Other Services 40,200 40,100 40,100 Automotive Repair 7,200 7,200 7,200 Government 202,500 198,800 200,300 Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | | | |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation 8,200 7,500 8,100 Accommodation & Food Services 77,000 75,600 76,200 Accommodation Services 10,100 9,700 9,600 Food Services 66,900 65,900 66,600 Other Services 40,200 40,100 40,100 Automotive Repair 7,200 7,200 7,200 Government 202,500 198,800 200,300 Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | | | |
| Accommodation & Food Services 77,000 75,600 76,200 Accommodation Services 10,100 9,700 9,600 Food Services 66,900 65,900 66,600 Other Services 40,200 40,100 40,100 Automotive Repair 7,200 7,200 7,200 Government 202,500 198,800 200,300 Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | | | |
| Accommodation Services 10,100 9,700 9,600 Food Services 66,900 65,900 66,600 Other Services 40,200 40,100 40,100 Automotive Repair 7,200 7,200 7,200 Government 202,500 198,800 200,300 Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | | | |
| Food Services 66,900 65,900 66,600 Other Services 40,200 40,100 40,100 Automotive Repair 7,200 7,200 7,200 Government 202,500 198,800 200,300 Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | | | |
| Automotive Repair 7,200 7,200 7,200 Government 202,500 198,800 200,300 Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | | | |
| Government 202,500 198,800 200,300 Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | | • | |
| Federal Government 20,900 20,900 20,700 State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | | | |
| State Government 67,700 64,800 67,100 | | • | | |
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Nonfarm - Continued from Page 1

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas advanced 3,600. Service providing industries gained 9,000 jobs, while goods producing industries lost 5,400 jobs.

Employment in education and health services rose 3,300 over the year. Health care and social assistance facilities accounted for the growth.

Government, which includes federal, state and local agencies, as well as educational facilities, has added 2,200 positions since February 2003.

The trade, transportation and utilities sector added 2,100 jobs. Increased hiring in truck transportation and at general merchandise stores was largely responsible for the growth.

Led by advances at finance and insurance companies, the number of workers in the financial activities sector rose 1,000 over the year.

Compared to the previous year, employment in leisure and hospitality advanced 900. Hiring in the accommodations and food segment accounted for most of the gain.

The employment count in **other services** was up 100.

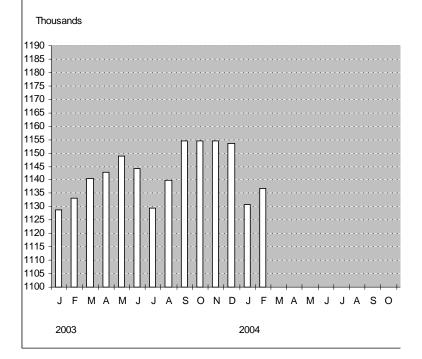
Manufacturing industries have lost 4,500 (-2.2 percent) jobs since February 2003, following a downward trend seen nationwide. Durable goods accounted for 3,600 of this loss and nondurable goods made up 900. The largest loss (-1,200) was in the furniture and related products industry.

Construction employment fell by 900 positions. Job losses were seen in both "construction of buildings" and "heavy construction." The completion of large projects triggered cutbacks in the heavy construction segment.

Employment in the professional and business services sector was down 500 over the year.

The employment count in natural resources and mining was unchanged, and jobs in information declined 100.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment Arkansas January 2003 to February 2004



| Consumer Price I | ndex for | the Unite | ed States: | February | 2004 |
|--|----------|-----------|------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1982-1984=100 Base | | | | | |
| | Feb. 04 | Jan. 04 | | Percent Cha Jan. 04 | ange Since: <u>Feb. 03</u> |
| All Urban Consumers | 186.2 | 185.2 | 183.1 | + 0.5 | + 1.7 |
| Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers | 181.9 | 180.9 | 179.2 | + 0.6 | + 1.5 |

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hours & Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries - State of Arkansas

| | We | Average eekly Earni | ings | w | Average eekly Hou | urs | Но | Average urly Earni | ngs |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| NAICS Industry | Feb. 2004 | Jan. 2004 | Feb. 2003 | Feb. 2004 | Jan. 2004 | Feb. 2003 | Feb. 2004 | Jan. 2004 | Feb. 2003 |
| Manufacturing | \$532.46 | \$531.98 | \$528.06 | 39.5 | 39.7 | 39.0 | \$13.48 | \$13.40 | \$13.54 |
| Durable Goods | 562.11 | 551.35 | 520.33 | 41.0 | 40.6 | 39.3 | 13.71 | 13.58 | 13.24 |
| Wood Products | 611.28 | 587.12 | 560.30 | 43.2 | 42.3 | 43.2 | 14.15 | 13.88 | 12.97 |
| Fabricated Metals | 570.65 | 555.74 | 564.79 | 40.5 | 40.3 | 40.4 | 14.09 | 13.79 | 13.98 |
| Nondurable Goods | 499.72 | 512.16 | 537.16 | 37.8 | 38.8 | 38.7 | 13.22 | 13.20 | 13.88 |
| Food | 378.92 | 394.54 | 446.50 | 36.4 | 37.9 | 38.0 | 10.41 | 10.41 | 11.75 |

Technical Notes

"Labor Market Trends" is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revi-

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System.

All estimates are based on a first quarter 2003 benchmark.

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

Monthly Business Survey of **Employers** - A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail questionnaires and telephone interviews by the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in cooperation with BLS. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Approximately 4,000 business establishments are included in the Arkansas sur-

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) - A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

Current Population Survey (CPS)- A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The resents the U.S. city average survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for There is no separate consumer BLS. The information is col- price index for Arkansas.

lected by trained interviewers from a sample of about 50,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. A total of 871 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

Civilian Labor Force - The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

Employment - An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

Unemployment - An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

Unemployment Rate - The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

Seasonal Adjustment - A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to such seasonal events as changes in the weather, major holidays, shifts in production schedules, harvest times, and the opening and closing of schools.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- A measure of the average change in prices over time of a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, and other items that people buy for day-to-day living. The CPI shown in this publication repand is not seasonally adjusted.

Labor Force Statistics

| Arkansas | February | January | February 2003 |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| (Seasonally Adjusted) | 2004 | 2004 | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,310,600 | 1,307,900 | 1,270,900 |
| Employment | 1,238,800 | 1,240,000 | 1,198,100 |
| Unemployment | 71,800 | 67,900 | 72,800 |
| Rate | 5.5 | 5.2 | 5.7 |
| Arkansas (Not Seasonally Adjusted) | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,296,900 | 1,286,700 | 1,257,300 |
| Employment | 1,216,300 | 1,206,500 | 1,175,600 |
| Unemployment | 80,600 | 80,200 | 81,700 |
| Rate | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.5 |
| Fayetteville- Springdale-Rogers | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 175,550 | 173,200 | 165,150 |
| Employment | 170,025 | 167,925 | 160,250 |
| Unemployment | 5,525 | 5,275 | 4,900 |
| Rate | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| Fort Smith | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 100,625 | 100,225 | 97,925 |
| Employment | 95,275 | 94,950 | 92,100 |
| Unemployment | 5,350 | 5,275 | 5,825 |
| Rate | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.9 |
| Jonesboro | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 45,450 | 45,425 | 43,875 |
| Employment | 42,725 | 42,800 | 41,575 |
| Unemployment | 2,725 | 2 ,625 | 2,300 |
| Rate | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.2 |
| Little Rock- North Little Rock | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 317,300 | 315,375 | 305,975 |
| Employment | 301,875 | 300,025 | 290,475 |
| Unemployment | 15,425 | 15,350 | 15,500 |
| Rate | 4.9 | 4.9 | 5.1 |
| Pine Bluff | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 37,675 | 37,200 | 36,175 |
| Employment | 34,375 | 33,875 | 32,600 |
| Unemployment | 3,300 | 3,325 | 3,575 |
| Rate | 8.7 | 8.9 | 9.9 |
| United States Unemployment Rates: | | | |
| Seasonally Adjusted | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.9 |
| Not Seasonally Adjusted | 6.0 | 6.3 | 6.4 |
| Note: MSA data are not seasonally adjust | ed. | | |



Jobs Gain Ground in February

Total nonfarm payroll jobs for the Pine Bluff MSA experienced a healthy recovery (+300) in February from the drop (-300) experienced from December 2003 to January 2004. Service providing industries added 200 new jobs. The government sector contributed the largest increase (+300) due to continued staffing of student workers and nonteaching personnel after semester break. The education and health services sector (+100) increased manpower to accommodate more children entering day care as a result of more jobs being created. Goods producing industries logged seasonal increases of 100 jobs.

Over the year, impressive gains were posted in total nonfarm payroll jobs. A 2.3 percent gain (800 jobs) was reflected in six of the major industry sectors. Goods producing industries created 400 new jobs. The service providing industry also created 400 jobs over the year in four of its sectors from the trickledown effect. The job count in wholesale trade was unchanged, but the retail sector reduced its workforce over the year.

Pine Bluff Metropolitan Statistical Area

| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|
| North American Industry Classification | Feb. 04 | Jan. 04 | Feb. 03 | | | |
| Total Nonfarm | 36,100 | 35,800 | 35,300 | | | |
| Goods Producing | 8,100 | 8,000 | 7,700 | | | |
| Natural Resources & Construction | 900 | 900 | 800 | | | |
| Manufacturing | 7,200 | 7,100 | 6,900 | | | |
| Nondurable Goods | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,400 | | | |
| Service Providing | 28,000 | 27,800 | 27,600 | | | |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 6,300 | 6,500 | 6,400 | | | |
| Wholesale Trade | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | | | |
| Retail Trade | 4,000 | 4,100 | 4,100 | | | |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities | 1,300 | 1,400 | 1,300 | | | |
| Information | 200 | 200 | 200 | | | |
| Financial Activities | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | | | |
| Professional & Business Services | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,200 | | | |
| Education & Health Services | 5,500 | 5,400 | 5,400 | | | |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,100 | | | |
| Other Services | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 | | | |
| Government | 8,800 | 8,500 | 8,600 | | | |
| Federal Government | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,700 | | | |
| State Government | 3,400 | 3,200 | 3,400 | | | |
| Local Government | 3,600 | 3,500 | 3,500 | | | |

Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonfarm Job Total Drops Slightly in February

The total number of nonfarm payroll jobs declined in the Jonesboro MSA in February by 300. Reductions were in the construction-mining, education-health services and government groups. The number of jobs in the remaining seven industries held constant.

A look at the yearly employment picture for the Jonesboro MSA showed totals for major industries were unchanged, except for two--manufacturing and education-health services. Declines of 100 each produced a year-to-year drop of 200, leaving the nonfarm count at 40,500.



| Nonfarm I | ayroll Jol | os | |
|--|------------|---------|---------|
| North American Industry Classification | Feb. 04 | Jan. 04 | Feb. 03 |
| Total Nonfarm | 40,500 | 40,800 | 40,700 |
| Construction & Mining | 1,900 | 2,000 | 1,900 |
| Manufacturing | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,600 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 7,800 | 7,800 | 7,800 |
| Information | 700 | 700 | 700 |
| Financial Activities | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Professional & Business Services | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,100 |
| Education & Health Services | 6,500 | 6,600 | 6,600 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 3,600 | 3,600 | 3,600 |
| Other Services | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Government | 6,400 | 6,500 | 6,400 |

Fayetteville - Springdale - Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area



| Nonfarm Payroll Job | s | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| North American Industry Classification | Feb. 04 | Jan. 04 | Feb. 03 |
| Total Nonfarm | 173,900 | 172,400 | 169,300 |
| Goods Producing | 37,600 | 37,700 | 37,700 |
| Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction | 7,800 | 7,800 | 7,200 |
| Manufacturing | 29,800 | 29,900 | 30,500 |
| Durable Goods | 12,400 | 12,400 | 12,900 |
| Fabricated Metals | 3,600 | 3,600 | 3,600 |
| Nondurable Goods | 17,400 | 17,500 | 17,600 |
| Food | 12,200 | 12,400 | 12,600 |
| Service Providing | 136,300 | 134,700 | 131,600 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 42,800 | 43,000 | 41,200 |
| Wholesale Trade | 7,900 | 8,000 | 7,300 |
| Retail Trade | 17,600 | 17,700 | 16,900 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 4,800 | 4,900 | 5,000 |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities | 17,300 | 17,300 | 17,000 |
| Information | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,200 |
| Financial Activities | 6,700 | 6,700 | 6,400 |
| Professional & Business Services | 26,900 | 26,600 | 26,700 |
| Employment Services | 3,200 | 3,000 | 3,400 |
| Education & Health Services | 16,000 | 15,900 | 15,200 |
| Hospitals | 4,700 | 4,700 | 4,500 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 13,500 | 13,200 | 13,000 |
| Other Services | 4,800 | 4,700 | 4,600 |
| Government | 23,300 | 22,300 | 22,300 |
| Federal Government | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,700 |
| State Government | 8,800 | 7,900 | 8,400 |
| Local Government | 12,600 | 12,500 | 12,200 |

Arkansas Labor Market Trends. February 2004

Seasonal Increases Posted in Nonfarm Payroll Employment

Nonfarm employment in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA rose 1,500 to total 173,900 in February. Five major sectors added jobs over the month

Government, with seasonal gains at educational facilities, had the largest increase (1,000). Professional-business services, and leisure-hospitality advanced 300 jobs, each.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs added 4,600, for a growth rate of 2.7 percent. Gains in nine major sectors were partly offset by a drop of 700 in the manufacturing sector.

Yearly increases ranged from 100 in information to 1,600 in trade, transportation, and utilities. Most of the gain in trade, transportation, and utilities was posted in trade, with retail trade adding 700 and wholesale trade gaining 600.

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA Nonfarm Payroll Jobs January 2003 - February 2004



| Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| | Feb. 04 | Jan. 04 | Feb. 03 | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$499.11 | \$529.02 | \$512.83 | | |
| Average Weekly Hours | 38.1 | 40.6 | 38.1 | | |
| Average Hourly Earnings | 13.10 | 13.03 | 13.46 | | |

6 Arkansas Labor Market Trends, February 2004

Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs North American Industry Classification Feb. 04 Jan. 04 Feb. 03 98,600 **Total Nonfarm** 98,700 98.800 30,500 **Goods Producing** 31,200 31,300 900 **Natural Resources & Mining** 1,000 1.000 4,600 4,600 4,200 Construction 25,400 25,600 25.700 Manufacturing 15,000 14,700 14,800 **Durable Goods** 5,900 Electrical Equipment 6,100 6.200 Nondurable Goods 10,900 10,900 10,400 7,600 7,500 6,800 Food 68,100 67,500 67,500 Service Providing 19,300 19,600 Trade, Transportation, & Utilities 19.600 3,200 Wholesale Trade 3,200 3.200 Retail Trade 10,800 10,800 10,700 3,400 3,400 General Merchandise Stores 3.400 5,600 5,400 5,600 Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities 3,800 Truck Transportation 4,100 4.100 1,700 1,500 1,600 Information 3,600 **Financial Activities** 3.600 3.600 9,000 9,100 9.400 **Professional & Business Services** 4,200 **Employment Services** 3,700 3,800 12,900 12,500 12,600 **Education & Health Services** 12,400 Health Care & Social Assistance 12,400 12.300 4,900 4,400 4.400 Hospitals 6.800 **Leisure & Hospitality** 7,000 7,000 2,800 **Other Services** 2,700 2.700 11.600 Government 11,600 11,300 1,300 Federal Government 1,200 1.200 1,900



Job Total Slips in February

Total nonfarm payroll jobs for the Fort Smith MSA decreased by 100 to 98,700 in February 2004. Nonfarm payroll jobs were lost in four major sectors: manufacturing, information, professional-business services, and education- health services. These groups posted losses of 100 jobs each. Seasonal hiring in the government sector accounted for an increase of 300 jobs for the month.

A year-to-year comparison shows an increase of 100 for the February 2004 nonfarm jobs total. A construction increase of 400 represented the largest gain for the period. Other sectors recording increases were, trade-transportation-utilities +300, leisure-hospitality + 200, manufacturing + 200, and natural resources-mining + 100. Job losses in four major industries totaled 1,100 and nearly offset the gains. The largest reduction was 400, recorded in both education-health services and professional-business services. Employment services and hospitals accounted for most of the job cuts from February 2003 to February 2004.

Hours & Earnings of Production Workers

1,800

8.300

8,400

2,000

8,400

| | Manufacturing Industries | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | Febuary 04 | January 04 | February 03 | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings Average Weekly Hours Average Hourly Earnings | \$512.26 38.4 \$13.34 | \$510.45 38.7 \$13.19 | \$528.98 37.2 \$14.22 | | |

Little Rock - North Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| North American Industry Classification | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| | Feb. 04 | Jan. 04 | Feb. 03 |
| Total Nonfarm | 314,800 | 315,000 | 313,800 |
| Goods Producing | 40,600 | 40,700 | 41,300 |
| Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction | 16,500 | 16,600 | 16,300 |
| Special Trade Contractors | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,300 |
| Manufacturing | 24,100 | 24,100 | 25,000 |
| Durable Goods | 14,700 | 14,700 | 15,400 |
| Fabricated Metals | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,100 |
| Computer & Electronic Equipment | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,200 |
| Transportation Equipment | 3,200 | 3,200 | 3,400 |
| Nondurable Goods | 9,400 | 9,400 | 9,600 |
| Service Providing | 274,200 | 274,300 | 272,500 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 65,900 | 66,500 | 66,300 |
| Wholesale Trade | 15,800 | 15,800 | 15,800 |
| Retail Trade | 33,600 | 34,100 | 33,500 |
| Food & Beverage Stores | 4,600 | 4,600 | 4,600 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 7,600 | 7,900 | 7,400 |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities | 16,500 | 16,600 | 17,000 |
| Information | 9,200 | 9,300 | 9,200 |
| Telecommunications | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 |
| Financial Activities | 19,700 | 19,600 | 19,100 |
| Professional & Business Services | 38,700 | 38,400 | 38,900 |
| Computer Systems | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,100 |
| Employment Services | 7,800 | 7,800 | 7,800 |
| Education & Health Services | 40,700 | 40,600 | 40,100 |
| Hospitals | 12,700 | 12,700 | 12,500 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 24,300 | 24,400 | 23,700 |
| Food Services | 18,300 | 18,600 | 18,500 |
| Other Services | 11,800 | 11,800 | 12,000 |
| Government | 63,900 | 63,700 | 63,200 |
| Federal Government | 9,200 | 9,300 | 9,200 |
| State Government | 29,600 | 29,300 | 29,200 |
| Local Government | 25,100 | 25,100 | 24,800 |
| | | | |



Employment Dips Sightly

The number of nonfarm payroll jobs dipped 200 in the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA in February. Four of ten major industry sectors contributed to the decline.

Trade, transportation and utilities dropped 600, making up the largest single industry reduction between months. More than 80 percent of this employment decrease was traced to retail trade where general merchandise stores continued seasonal cut-

Four major groups combined for 700 job increases in February. Professional-business services and government rose 300 and 200, respectively. Smaller gains were posted in financial activities and education-health.

Five major industries added 2,700 jobs and four dropped 1,700, producing a net gain in the nonfarm total over the year. Job increases ranged from a low of 200 in natural resources and construction to a high of 700 in government. Manufacturing jobs, down 900, provided the greatest hindrance to the year-to-year gain.

Hours and Earnings of Production Workers

| | Manufacturing Industries | | | Durable | Goods Indu | ıstries | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Feb. 04 | Jan. 04 | Feb. 03 | Feb. 04 | Jan. 04 | Feb. 03 | |
| Average Weekly Earnings Average Weekly Hours Average Hourly Earnings | \$599.09 43.1 \$13.90 | \$595.85 42.5 \$14.02 | \$565.65 41.5 \$13.63 | \$623.45 44.5 \$14.01 | \$605.32 42.9 \$14.11 | \$558.80 40.0 \$13.97 | |

State Government

Local Government